

Remarks

Applicants greatly appreciate the recognition of patentable subject matter in the present application.

Applicants hereby add claims 22-26 and cancel claims 7 and 16. Accordingly, claims 1-6, 8-15, and 17-26 are pending in the present application.

Claims 16-17 stand rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, for indefiniteness. Claims 1-13 stand rejected under 35 USC 101. Claims 1-4, 10-12, and 15 stand rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting. Claims 5-9, 13-14, and 16-21 stand rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting. Claims 1-4, 10-12, and 15 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(e) for anticipation over U.S. Patent No. 6,798,719 to Muta et al. Claims 5-9, 13-14, and 16-21 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) for obviousness over Muta.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections and urge allowance of the present application.

Referring to the objection to the drawings, Applicants submit a Figure 2 herewith. Applicants respectfully submit Figure 2 is supported at least by the teachings in the originally filed specification at page 9, lines 25+ and original claims 11-21. The addition of Fig. 2 provides conformance of the drawings with the originally-filed specification and claims in accordance with MPEP 2163.06 (8th ed., rev. 3) which provides that information contained in any one of the specification, claims or drawings of the application as filed may be added to any other part of the application without adding new matter. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the objection to the drawings.

Referring to the indefiniteness rejections, Applicants have amended the language of claims 16 (limitations of claim 16 are now incorporated in claim 15) and 17 as indicated herein. Applicants respectfully submit the claims are definite and request withdrawal of the indefiniteness rejection.

The amendments made herein with respect to 11.2, second paragraph, now more positively express limitations which were previously inherent in such claim(s), and accordingly are not for the purpose of narrowing and do not effectively narrow the scope of any claim.

Referring to the 101 rejection, Applicants refer to *Ex Parte Carl A. Lundgren*,
PDNO. 10008291-1
Serial No.: 09/888,941
Amendment A